

Judicial Inquiry Commission

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This is in response to your request for an advisory opinion from the Judicial Inquiry Commission.

It is the opinion of this Commission that the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics do not prohibit a judge from soliciting the advice and assistance of attorneys and friends in seeking to obtain an appointment as a federal judge. In so doing, the judge should be mindful of the admonitions of Canon 7 governing political campaign conduct; "should respect and comply with the law and should conduct himself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary;" "should at all times maintain the decorum and temperance befitting his office and should avoid conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office into disrepute;" and "should [not] convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence him." Canons 2A, 2B, and 2C. In contacting his attorneys and friends, the judge should not use any court personnel or state-purchased property, such as office stationery or telephone.

This advisory opinion has been approved and adopted by the Judicial Inquiry Commission and is the opinion of this Commission.